Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /016 R

DRAFTED BY:S/S-O:JSNYDER APPROVED BY:S/S-O:GTWOHIE

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TO USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 220603

EXDIS TOSEC 241

FOLLOWING TEL SENT RIYADH CAIRO FROM SECSTATE 8 NOVEMBER WHICH IS A REPEAT OF ALGIERS 2345 LIMDIS SENT ACTION SECSTATE ADDIS ABABA INFO AMMAN BEIRUT KHARTOUM KUWAIT RABAT TEL AVIV AND TUNIS DTD 7 NOVEMBER IS HEREBY REPEATED

QTE C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 220603

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (NEWSOM, DAVID D.)

SUBJ: ALGERIAN GOVERNMENT ASKS POSTPONEMENT OF NEWSOM

DEPT PASS CAIRO

1. DIRECTOR ESTERN EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS AT FONMINISTRY, ABERKAME, CALLED ME TO MINISTRY MORNING NOV. 8. HE SID HE WAS INSTRUCTED TO ADVISE US THAT BECAUSE ALGERIAN OFFICIALS WOULD BE SO DEEPLY INVOLVED IN PREPARING FOR THREE CONFERENCES (OAU MINISTERES, ARAB SUMMIT, AND NON-ALIGNED CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE) THEY REGRETFULLY MUST ASK THAT ASST SEC NEWSOM POSTPONE HIS VISIT TO ALGERIA UNTIL "SOME LATER DATE".

2. AS CONVERSATION PROCEEDED ABERKANE MADE IT CLEAR THAT ALGERIAN OFFICIALS WERE UNHAPY RE CERTAIN ASPECTS OF CONFIDENTIAL

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SECRETARY'S VISIT TO ME. I SUSPECT THAT THIS UNHAPPINESS, ALONG WITH PIQUE OVER EGYPT'S UNILATERAL RESUMPTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH U.S., HAS AT LEAST AS MUCH TO DO WITH CANCELLATION OF NEWSOM'S VISIT AS THE PROBLEM

OF CONCURRENT CONFERENCES IN ALOIERS.

- 3. FROM WHAT ABERKANE SAID AND IMPLIED ALGERIANS APPEAR TO BE UNHAPPY THAT THE SECRETARY HAD NOT SCHEDULED A STOP IN ALGIERS ON HIS ORIGINAL PROGRAM. ABERKANE MENTIONED THAT SECRETARY WAS NOT VISITING DAMASCUS AND OTHER ARAB STATES (READ ALGERIA) WHERE HE WOULD HAVE OBTAINED FULL RANGE OF ARAB VIEWS, IMPLICATION BEING THAT EGYPTIANS WERE INTERESTED ONLY IN A SETTLEMENT TO THEIR OWN ADVANTAGE. SEVERAL TIMES HE MENTIONED ALGERIAS POSITION AS A LEADER OF THIRD WORLD.
- 4. IN REPLY I NOTED THAT ALGERIAN GOVERNMENT HAD NOT INVITED SECRETARY TO VISIT ALGIERS AND IN ANY CASE SECRETARY'S TIGHT SCHEDULE REQUIRED HIM TO CONCENTRATE ON THOSE AREAS MOST DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS TO AVOID RENEWED FIGHTING AND MAKE PROGRESS TOWARD LONG TERM SETTLEMENT.
- 5. I AM EXPECTING TO SEE DPSECGEN PRESIDENT HAMDANI LATER TODAY AND WILL TRY TO GET HIGHER LEVEL READING OF ALGERIAN ATTITUDE TOWARD DEVELOPMENTS IN ME AND NEWSOM'S VISIT FROM HIM. (PRESIDENTIAL CONFIDANT ZEGHAR IS NOT NOW IN ALGIERS.)
- 6. AS NEWS OF "POSTPONEMENT" OF VISIT BECOMES KNOWN, WEPROPOSE TAKE LINE HERE ACCEPTING AT FACE VALUE ABERKANE'S EXPLANATION THAT NUMBEROUS MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES IN ALGIERS MADE THIS A BAD TIME FOR VISIT. EAGLETON UNQUOTE RUSH UNQTE RUSH

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TAGS: OVIP, (NEWSOM, DAVID D)

To: PEKING

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